

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Modoc

FIELD MAPPER(S): Michael Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: August 7, 2002

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: Landsat 2002

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* Steve Clay, Modoc NWR Manager

➤ *websites:*

Modoc NWR: <http://modoc.fws.gov>

➤ *GIS data referenced:* SWIS landfill, waste facility and DFG wildlife area and ecological reserve reference files

2000-2002 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

Note: This is the first digital update for Modoc County. Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

No significant conversions from irrigated farmland to urban land occurred this update.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

The only notable conversion of local, grazing, or other land to urban land was the addition of the Likely Place RV Resort that included an RV park and clubhouse (~12 acres).

Significant conversions were also made from local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update in the form of urban boundary adjustments in the Tulelake, Fort Bidwell, Lake City, Cedarville, and Alturas areas due to improved imagery.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

There were approximately 35 conversions of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land this update. These conversions were distributed throughout the county with the vast majority being due to farmland having been fallow for three or more updates. Where the farmland was on qualifying soils, it was converted to farmland of local importance, otherwise it went to grazing land.

One notable conversion included an approximately 250-acre plot of farmland that went out of production to the west of Davis Creek. Another conversion involved approximately 450 acres of farmland just south of Upper Alkali Lake. Finally, two areas of farmland to the west of the north end of Middle Alkali Lake totaling approximately 300 acres were converted to farmland of local importance. Some of these conversions may have been overdue due to lack of infrared photo coverage in this county until the current update.

Further instances of the conversion of irrigated farmland to local or grazing land were due to the identification of irrigated pasture on poor soils (U) or areas of nonirrigated grain.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 10 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. Most of these conversions were due to the identification of farmsteads. Other sources of conversion were the identification of ranchettes, agricultural staging areas, small farm ponds, and small areas of fallow farmland.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were approximately 55 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland this update. These conversions were scattered throughout the county and mainly involved boundary adjustments made to existing agricultural fields and expansions of existing fields due to improved, infrared imagery obtained this update. Irrigated grains and

pasture, as well as alfalfa, were the most commonly added type of irrigated farmland. Improved, infrared imagery also allowed for the definitive identification of some previously unmapped, existing farmland.

Notable additions included five areas of irrigated grain or alfalfa identified to the east, west, and south of the Modoc NWR (~ 550 acres).

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

X to G: Identified some irrigated pasture on poor (U) soils that seemed to be good grazing areas for happy cattle.

L to X: Identified fish ponds on the Canby quad next to a small waterbody.

X to L: Added hay, grain field areas in the Modoc NWR per Steve Clay.

P,S,U<>P,S,U: Multiple soil unit corrections were made throughout the county with the help of the digital soil surveys provided by the NRCS.

Farmland of Local Importance: When all three digital soil surveys for Modoc Co. are released (Surprise Valley is the holdout), consideration should be given to making refinements in the mapping of Farmland of Local Importance in Modoc County.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

None in particular

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: July 30, 2003

photo interpretation, number of days: 8

ground truthing dates: August 18-22, 2003

days for map compilation and clean up: 9

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp